

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: APRA DEMONSTRATES POPULAR APPEAL; LEADER CALLS FOR
ELECTIONS

SUMMARY. APRA LEADER HAYA DE LA TORRE SPOKE ON FEBRUARY 20
(CELEBRATION OF HIS 81ST BIRTHDAY) BEFORE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD
OF 100,000. HAYA DECLARED THAT THE REVOLUTION HAD FAILED.
HE CALLED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS BEGINNING
AT THE NUMICIPAL LEVEL. HAYA CRITICIZED BLIND "ANTI-IMPERIALISM".
HE ASSERTED THAT PERU MUST INCREASE CONTACT WITH WESTERN
DEVELOPED NATIONS BUT HAD NOTHING TO LEARN FORM THE SOVIET
UNION. APRA RALLY DEMONSTRATED THAT PARTY ORGANIZATION STILL
INTACT AND POPULAR APPEAL REMAINS. GOP WILL HAVE TO ANALYZE
IMPLICATIONS FOR SECOND PHASE OF THE REVOLTUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PERU'S MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY, THE APRA, CELEBRATED ITS "DAY
OF BROTHERHOOD" FEBRUARY 20 IN CONNECTION WITH THE 81ST BIRTH-
DAY OF ITS FOUNDER, VICTOR RAUL HAYA DE LA TORRE. OVER 100,000
PERSONS GATHERED IN FRONT OF APRA HEADQUARTERS IN WHAT WAS
PROBABLY THE TARGETS POLITICAL RALLY OF THE LAST SEVERAL
YEARS. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD CHANTED APRA SLOGANS AND
WATCHED A TWO-HOUR PARADE OF APRA STUDENT, PROFESSIONAL AND
LABOR GROUPS WHO MARCHED WITH LEFT ARM EXTENDED (SALUTE "TO
SUPPORT OUR LEADER TO THE DEATH"). ALL AWAITED THE MAIN EVENT OF
THE EVENING, A "STATE OF THE UNION" ADDRESS BY HAYA DE LA

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TORRE.

2. HAYA, WHO REMAINED ON HIS FEET FOR MOST OF THE FIVE-HOUR RALLY, DID NOT DISAPPOINT HIS SUPPORTERS. IN VIGOROUS MANNER HE DEMANDED THAT THE MILGOV CONVOKE A CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY AND HOLD ELECTIONS. BEFORE THE CHEERING THROUGH HAYA DECLARED "WE WANT ELECTIONS". HE RIDICULED GOP ATTEMPTS TO CREATE ITS OWN POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND CHALLENGED THE GOVERNMENT TO START WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. "LET US SEE WHO WINS."

3. HAYA REFERRED TO THE JANUARY SPEECH OF FINANCE MINISTER BARUA, CALLING IT AN HONEST EXPOSITION OF THE DEEP CRISIS FACING PERU, A CRISIS DUE, ACCORDING TO HAYA, TO SEVEN YEARS OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT POPULAR PARTICIPATION. THIS "ROTTEN REVOLUTION" SAID HAYA, "HAS FAILED. AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF GOVERNMENT RESULTING IN DISCONTENT AND FRUSTRATION, THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT WOULD BE TO RECTIFY ERRORS. TO ACT OTHERWISE IS JACOBIN AND INFANTILE." A MAJOR ERROR, STATED HAYA, IS "BLIND IMPERIALISM". APRA, DECLARED HAYA, HAS ALWAYS BEEN ANTI-IMPERIALIST BUT AT THE SAME TIME COGNIZANT THAT PERU IS TIED CLOSELY TO THE U.S. AND HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM THAT COUNTRY AND THE WESTERN WORLD (CROWD APPLAUDED THIS STATEMENT). "WE MUST INCREASE OUR CONTACT WITH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS", SAID HAYA, "NOT TO SUBMIT TO DOMINATION, BUT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY". IN THIS REGARD "THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOTHING TO OFFER".

4. PERHAPS IN RECOGNITION OF THE SEMI-CORPORATIST PHILOSOPHY PERMEATING THE REVOLUTION, HAYA PROPOSED AN ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL CONGRESS. THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONGRESS WOULD BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM LABOR, CAPITAL AND FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS "INCLUDING THE MILITARY BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIALIZATION".

5. THE CROWD DID NOT DISPERSE UPON THE CONCLUSION OF HAYA'S SPEECH (AFTER 1:00 A.M.) BUT REMAINED IN PLACE SINGING TIME AND AGAIN THE APRA HYMN SET TO THE TUNE OF THE MARSEILLAISE.

6. THE MILGOV WILL HAVE TO ANALYZE IMPLICATIONS OF APRA DEMONSTRATION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION. MEETING SHOWED THAT THE APRA ORGANIZATION IS INTACT; IN FACT, THE PARTY
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IS PROBABLY FEEDING ON POPULAR DISCONTENT AND GAINING IN STRENGTH. UNIVERSITY, YOUTH, AND LABOR GROUPS APPEARED WELL-DISCIPLINED. THERE SEEMED TO BE AMPLE LIMA DISTRICT AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS AT THE RALLY. THE CROWD WAS ENTIRELY URBAN BUT APRA CO-SECRETARY ANDRES TOWNSEND TOLD EMBOFF OBSERVING RALLY THAT PARTY HAD NEW STRENGTH IN COUNTRY SIDE AND HAD ORGANIZED A CLANDESTINE PEASANT ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL FLOWER AT THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT.

7. UNLIKE THE FEW THOUSAND WHO WELCOMED FORMER PRESIDENT

BELAUNDE IN JANUARY FOLLOWING HIS YEARS OF EXILE, THE APRA CROWD WAS COMPOSED OF A CROSS-REPRESENTATION FROM THE LIMA POPULACE WITH LOWER AND LOWERMIDDLE CLASS DOMINANT. EMBOFF WAS LATER TOLD BY BELAUNDE SUPPORTER THAT MANY FROM BELAUNDE'S ACCION POPULAR PARTY ALSO ATTENDED AND THOSE WHO DID NOT REGRETTED NOT HAVING DONE SO. A PERUVIAN BUSINESSMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE IMPOVERISHED APRA, DEPENDENT ON SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS, MAY NOW FIND PARTY COFFERS AUGMENTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FORM BUSINESS SOURCES.

8. ALTHOUGH HAYA APPEARED TO BE MOST POPULR MAN IN PERU ON FEBRUARY 20, THE EMOTIONAL TRIBUTE TO HIM POINTED UP APRA'S PERSONALIST CHARACTER, WHICH BECAUSE OF HAYA'S 81 YEARS IS PROBLEMATICAL FOR PARTY. NEWER MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT ARE A GNERAATION YOUNGER THAN HAYA BUT IT IS NOT CERTAN THAT THEY OR HAYA'S LONG-TIME COLLEAGUES ON APRA SECRETARIAT COULD RE-AIN FERVOR OF PARTY FAITHFUL FOLLOWING HAYA'S DEPARTURE.

9. THE MAJOR QUESTION REMAINS THE MILGOV RELATIONSHIP WITH APRA. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAD EXPECTED HAYA TO BE CONCILIATORY IN HIS BID FOR COLLABORATION WITH GOP. INSTEAD SPEECH WAS A CRITICAL AND RATHER TOUGH ONE, WITH DEMAND RATHER THAN REQUEST FOR GOP CONSULTATION WITH APRA. WHETHER GOP WILL CONCLUDE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SO IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. BUT, IF THE GOVERNMENT DECISES TO REJECT A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH APRA, IT MAY BECOME EVER MORE DEPENDENT ON LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AS ONLY SOURCE OF CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR REGIME.

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